

To Whom It May Concern:

This proposal is in regard to the Millis, MA town conservation land located on Exchange Street that is otherwise known as the Cassidy Property. This proposal is being submitted by Steven & Linda Chiarizio from Tangerini's Spring Street Farm. For purpose of being thorough in this proposal, we will be repeating several points which we have mentioned at various Conservation Commission meetings in the past few months.

As most of you know, Tangerini's Spring Street Farm operates at 139 Spring Street in Millis. We currently plant on approximately 50 acres at Tangerini Farm. We grow apples, strawberries, blueberries, peaches, and just about every vegetable that is seasonally available in the New England area. Tangerini's has been operating here for just over 23 years. At this time, we are looking to expand the plantings of some of our Pick-Your-Own fruit crops. Over the last few years, the demand for more Pick-Your-Own fruits has steadily climbed. We are finding that year after year we are picked out much faster than we would like and then left with a lot of customers from our community wishing we had more fruit to offer. In order to plant more fruit trees, bushes, etc. we need to free up some of our vegetable land which will then give us the space we need to expand our current PYO operation. Our proposal is that we would utilize the Cassidy property to move some of our vegetable crops to thus freeing up the space on our farm to plant more fruit trees/bushes.

In order to adequately prepare for planting the Cassidy property, there would be several steps taken in advance to ensure the proper care of the land. First, we would conduct several soil samples so that we can determine the soil composition and establish if there are any soil amendments needed. Please note: All of our vegetable crops (with the exception of corn, which we wouldn't be growing on the Cassidy property), are grown organically. Any soil amendments, vegetable plants, and possible chemicals used for spraying would be organic. Once the soil samples are done and the results are evaluated, we would then determine what crops we plan to plant where and come up with a crop plan. At this point, we would figure out if there are any soil amendments needed or cover cropping needed before planting. The sod that is currently covering the ground will need ample time to breakdown. The crops planted on the Cassidy property will be row crops. These crops will be irrigated by drip irrigation. In order to accommodate for this method of irrigation, a plan with the Army Corps of Engineers will be established with the hope of gaining access to the Bogostow Brook. Our intention would be to place a gas pump in an agreed upon location and run a header line from the pump to the necessary drip irrigation lines. Depending on the crops planted, the weather, and potential disease pressure some spraying will be done using organic chemicals. The utmost consideration will be taken when spraying in terms of plant and soil health as well as neighbors. The individual who will be spraying will possess a current pesticide license with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and follow all necessary safety protocols.

In addition to maintaining the viability of the soil structure and crops planted there, we will be installing temporary deer fencing. This will greatly increase the protection of our crops from wildlife. To do so, we would be installing 4'x4' wooden posts into the ground and connecting

them with movable electric fence tape. This electric fence tape will be properly labeled intermittently around the perimeter so that any passer byes are aware that the fence is electric. The power source for this fence would be a movable solar box approximately 2'x2'. During planting and harvest season, the electric fence would be up and functional. After harvest season, the electric fence tape will be removed. Our designated farm trucks and tractors will be the only vehicles entering the crop areas. Although our staff is seasonal, we will have the same staff members coming to these properties. They will be trained on where and how to enter and exit the properties and will exemplify all of our morals and standards for maintaining a clean and well-maintained plot of land.

Tangerini's Farm has the utmost respect for the land as well as the neighbors abutting the property and the community as a whole. By gaining access to farming these properties we are not only able to better serve our current customers but reach a wider customer base and have a greater impact on our community. Tangerini's Farm is currently in partnership with EBT/HIP/SNAP food insecurity programs as well as WIC. We donate food on a weekly and monthly basis to several local town and city food banks. By adding additional land into production, we look forward to having a greater impact on our customers as well as those struggling with food insecurities. Through this last year, we have developed a produce delivery service as well as curbside pick-up and have been so pleased to provide access to so many individuals who cannot or aren't able to leave their homes. We would be thrilled to be able to expand on our current fruit crops and be able to offer more to our growing community. Due to the significant cost and planning associated with this type of endeavor we are asking that the Conservation Commission consider a "long-term" lease. We are dedicated to making this work for all parties involved and look forward to a long, positive relationship with the Conservation Commission and Town of Millis. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any additional questions or concerns. Our contact information is below.

Sincerely,

Steven & Linda Chiarizio
Tangerini's Spring Street Farm

Steven Chiarizio
781-368-3020
chiarizios@verizon.net

Linda Chiarizio
978-906-3230
tangerinifarm@gmail.com